

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE WYCOMBE WANDERERS 1, WALTON & HERSHAM 0

IT took a 69th-minute goal from former Stompond Lane favourite Brian Langfield to break the deadlock of this dull, uninspiring encounter at Loakes Park last Saturday.

Until then the game seemed destined to be goalless, with neither side able to play to their best abilities on a heavy sloping pitch that made ball control difficult.

Walton, with two homes victories over Wycombe this season, never looked like completing the hat-trick. Their play was generally vague and obscure.

Passes and opportunities were wasted with monotonous regularity and the free kicks—something Swans usually excel in—were too often hit woefully short of their target. Because of injuries and illnesses they had to field Donaldson (only half recovered from flu) and Roy Thomas (troubled by a nagging knee injury).

Wycombe, who have been knocked out of every important competition this season and have no chance in the league, began strongly, obviously intent on salvaging their pride. Pritchard went close as he raced in on a return pass from Amos but shot just wide. Then Teale saved a Langfield header from Horseman's cross.

Walton hit back with a good break by Morris, and when Gane tried to clear, Somers intercepted—but Gane recovered and deflected Morris's shot for a corner. Morris again went close as he fired just over after good work by Connell and Somers. Back came Wycombe and Teale made two fine saves in succession as Pritchard and Amos broke through. Even the partisan home supporters had to cheer Teale moments later when a slip by Donaldson allowed Langfield through on a clear run. The keeper, swiftly out of his goal, dived full length at the forward's feet and blocked the shot.

Swans started the second half well and keeper Maskell covered a good shot from Woffinden via a short free kick by Edwards. Gambelin was glad to give away a corner as Fockett flicked on a near-post cross from Somers, then Morris fired just wide after a good build up by Somers and Fockett. Connell then burst clear on a determined run for goal but was hacked down just outside the area by Williams,

who was booked. From the free kick Smith and Fockett set Morris up for a shot that was just blocked.

Then Wycombe suddenly bounced back to snatch the winner. Horseman raced down the left with Donaldson covering and when he clipped the ball back from the by-line it caught the back's boot and flicked over the stranded Teale for Langfield to head gleefully home.

Walton tried to fight back and Somers fired just wide after Connell and Morris set up the chance. Teale again earned praise as he raced out to save from Amos as Pritchard put him through.

But that was Wycombe's last attack as Walton piled on the pressure for an equaliser. Thomas shot just over from a corner by Smith. Somers headed home but the referee disallowed it for pushing.

Walton's last chance came when Maskell dropped a Smith corner and the ball was cleared to Woffinden on the edge of the area. His stunning shot flattened Bullock but Fockett fired the rebound wide.

Walton Teale, Thomas, Lambert, Donaldson, Edwards, Morris, Smith, Woffinden, Connell, Somers, Fockett, Sub: Dudfield.